

the one hand, and the medical profession on the other; and conflicts between these two forces have occurred in almost every country where compulsory health insurance has been adopted. It is therefore imperative that the medical profession study carefully the problems that may arise, in order that it may guard its interests should such legislation be proposed or adopted.

The proposed plans guarantee two types of benefit to the insured in the event of illness. First, a cash benefit amounting to a certain proportion of his previous income; and second, medical care, which includes the services of a physician or of physicians, drugs, mechanical appliances and, if need be, hospital care. Your committee is unable to suggest any method whereby insurance carriers can furnish medical care without serious objections on the part of many physicians. In the first place, it is not certain that the total sum received by the profession under the proposed change would equal that which it now receives from the same classes of patients. Even though we assume for the sake of argument that the total sum will equal or will even exceed what is now received, it will be distributed differently, for the new distribution will be more or less controlled by the state and by the insurance carriers. The transition to this new set of conditions would undoubtedly work a hardship to many in the profession. It may be argued that under state control the selection of physicians would be more just than under the system of absolutely free choice now in force. This might be true under ideal conditions of governmental control; but the experiences of the past, particularly with respect to medical licensure, antivivisection laws, and industrial accident insurance, does not inspire the profession with confidence in the state control of medicine. Should at some time this control fall into the hands of those out of sympathy with the profession or should it be used for the promotion of political purposes, then a large part of the profession would find itself at the mercy of an unjust or corrupt central control. And in the end such a condition could not fail to lessen the standard of medical service rendered to the community as a whole.

Your committee therefore feels that from the standpoint of the medical profession it can endorse compulsory health insurance only in so far as it provides a cash benefit for the insured in the event of illness. If medical care were not provided this cash benefit could be greater than it would be otherwise. Under such a plan the patient would receive a cash benefit but the relations between patients and their physicians would remain as they now are. The committee realizes that this plan will not satisfy many who are at present advocating compulsory health insurance, for the reason that under this plan the sick benefits would often be insufficient to meet the expenses of illness. Nevertheless, the committee believes that the medical profession would prefer to follow its present custom of minimal charges in such cases rather than risk the uncertainties of state control together with an alteration in the personal relation that now exists between physician and patient.

Book Reviews

Clinical and Laboratory Technic. By H. L. McNeil. Illustrated. St. Louis: Mosby. 1916.

This little volume is the lamentable result of attempting too great a condensation of technical methods. It is a mere smattering and enumeration of the tests and methods employed rather than a description and interpretation. This book is so close to the quiz-compend type that it cannot be recommended as of the slightest practical value.

G. H. T.

Care of Patients Undergoing Gynecologic and Abdominal Procedures, Before, During, and After Operation. By E. E. Montgomery, M. D., Professor of Gynecology in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. 12mo of 149 pages with 61 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1916. Cloth, \$1.25 net.

This little book is the outgrowth, the author says, of some typewritten instructions prepared for his assistants. It consists of a chapter on preparations for laparotomy and a discussion of possible complications, and following, of short descriptions of the technique of the various gynecological and of a few other abdominal operations. The explanations are short, but should be sufficient for nurses assisting in the operating room; they are entirely sensible, and no nurse will go amiss in following them.

L. E.

Cancer, Its Cause and Treatment. By L. Duncan Bulkley, A. M., M. D. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. 1915. Price, \$1.50.

In this book Bulkley seeks to develop the theory that cancer is a constitutional disease whose incidence seems to follow closely along the lines of modern civilization. He thinks that this extension of cancer depends largely upon the altered conditions of life, particularly upon self-indulgence in eating, drinking and indolence. He considers the increase in the consumption of meat, alcohol and coffee, together with the increased nerve-strain, acting through a disturbance of metabolism as well as directly on the morbid cell itself to be of importance. He thinks that the institution of dietetic, hygienic and medicinal measures may offer some curative and much prophylactic promise.

L. E.

An Inquiry into the Principles of Treatment of Broken Limbs; a Philosophico-Surgical Essay with Surgical Notes. By William F. Fluhrer. M. D. New York: Rebman Co. 1916.

This high-sounding title designates an essay advocating the treatment of fractures of the lower extremity by means of a fixation apparatus made of tin strips and plaster of paris bandages. The method was evolved in the '70's—and the book belongs to the '70's. Many of its principles are incorrect, but the treatise gives a number of useful hints in bandaging—a heritage from the days when bandaging was an art, and a slovenly dressing an opprobrium. Besides the essay on fractures it contains a chapter on the open treatment of amputations that is full of good suggestions, notes on sepsis in the New York hospitals in the '70's, and a chapter describing some bone instruments of the author's invention. The book is smothered in philosophical verbiage, but is interesting historically.

L. E.

The Practical Medicine Series. Comprising ten volumes on the year's progress in medicine and surgery. Under the general editorial charge of Chas. L. Mix, A. M., M. D. Chicago: Yearbook publishers. 1916.

Obstetrics. Vol. 7. Edited by J. B. DeLee and H. M. Stowe. Price, \$1.35. Contents: Pregnancy. Labor. Puerperium. New-born. Obstetrics in general.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics. Preventive Medicine. Vol. 8. Edited by Geo. F. Butler and W. A. Evans. Price, \$1.50. Contents: Drugs, extracts of animal organs, bacterial preparations, serums and vaccines. Electricity, Roentgen rays, radium and radio-active substances. Physician and public health work. General sanitation. Personal hygiene. Infant welfare. Inspection of school

children. Infectious and contagious diseases. Occupational diseases. Military hygiene.

Skin and Venereal Diseases. Vol. 9. Edited by O. S. Ormsby and J. H. Mitchell. Price, \$1.35. Contents: Dermatoses, Genito-urinary Diseases, Syphilis.

Nervous and Mental Diseases. Vol. 10. Edited by H. T. Patrick, P. Bassoe and L. J. Pollock. Price, \$1.35. Contents: Symptomatology. Neuroses. Cerebrospinal fluid and diseases of the meninges. Syphilitic diseases of nervous system. Diseases of the brain. Diseases of the spinal cord. Diseases of peripheral nerves. Miscellaneous. Psychiatry: general considerations. Alcoholism, etc. L. M.

Bone-Graft Surgery. By Fred H. Albee, M. D., F. A. C. S., Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and the University of Vermont. Octavo volume of 417 pages with 332 illustrations, three of them in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$6.00 net; half morocco, \$7.50 net.

We would advise those of our readers who practice bone surgery, either as orthopedists or as part of a broader specialty, to make themselves acquainted with the contents of this book.

The author attempts to apply the autogenous bone inlay to very nearly every problem presented by bone surgery; and in doing so displays mechanical ingenuity and an often truly exquisite technic. However, every now and then he offers solutions to some problems which might be come at by some technically simpler means.

We do not expect to follow him in all that he proposes; nevertheless the principle of the autogenous bone-graft is essentially sound, and must be regarded as a permanent addition to bone surgery.

Dr. Albee's great service to the profession lies in the fact that he has worked out the technic, assembled the proper armamentarium, determined many of the indications for the operation where it is applicable, and by his writings may be said to have popularized the autogenous bone-graft.

The chapter on the operative treatment of fractures is alone worth the price of the book.

J. T. W.

The Surgical Clinics of Chicago, Volume 1 No. 1 (February, 1917). Octavo of 221 pages, 83 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1917. Published bi-monthly. Price per year: Paper, \$10; cloth, \$14.

Clinic of Dr. A. D. Bevan:

Gall-stone disease.

General principles of the operative cure of inguinal, femoral, and diaphragmatic hernias. Demonstration of three cases.

Clinic of Dr. A. J. Ochsner:

Goiter.

Case of femoral hernia.

Gernias in children.

Clinic of Dr. E. W. Andrews:

Fracture of patella treated by open operation.

Three cases of plastic surgery.

Contribution by Dr. L. L. McArthur:

Improvement in the technic of gastric surgery.

Clinic of Dr. D. D. Lewis:

Neurolysis and nerve suture.

Bleeding nipple, with plastic operation upon breast.

Congenital pyloric stenosis.

Clinic of Dr. Carl Beck:

Open wound treatment of acute and chronic bone and joint infections.

New treatment of large cavities after empyema of the chest.

Clinic of Dr. Allen B. Kanavel:

Transplantation of fascia lata in exstrophy of the bladder, complete defects in abdominal wall and spina bifida.

Clinic of Dr. D. N. Eisendrath:

Head injuries.

Carcinomatous ulcer on posterior wall of stomach with perforation into lesser peritoneal cavity.

Clinic of Dr. Kellogg Speed:

Tendoplasty for wrist-drop. Description of new operation.

Clinic of Dr. Samuel C. Plummer:

Case of calculous anuria.

Clinic of Dr. Edwin W. Ryerson:

Ankylosis of elbow.

Clinic of Dr. D. B. Phemister:

Echinococcus cyst of liver complicated later by subphrenic pyopneumothorax and hydropneumothorax.

Central fibroma of mandible.

Manual of Therapeutic Exercise and Massage:

Designed for the use of physicians, students and masseurs. By C. Hermann Bucholz, M. D. Illustrated with 89 engravings. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger, 1917. Price, \$3.25.

In these days when the irregular practice of psychotherapy flourishes under the guise of isms, cults and pseudo religions, it behooves the medical man to analyze his deficiencies and attempt to remedy as many of them as possible. The more reason for this, because many of these methods of relieving the sick rest on sound medical or surgical basis and are the more potent in the charlatans' hands for this very reason. How many medical men can say that they can or do intelligently make use of hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, massage, gymnastics? Not many. We are too prone to allow these valuable therapeutic measures to become the special province of a very few medical enthusiasts or to be lost to the field of legitimate medicine by their misuse or abuse in the hands of the quacks and cultists.

In the medical schools, therapy, aside from sera, drugs and surgical procedures is hardly ever referred to, much less taught. It is only when the student goes out into practice that he becomes aware of the additions that he can make to his armamentarium, but it is usually too late for him to take up any of these things beyond a mere recognition of them and a very few of their possibilities.

There is undoubtedly some virtue to the mechanical side of osteopathy, chiropractic and the other man-handling systems beyond the psychic effect on the patient. Massage, as used by the Japanese, the Indians and as developed and used in the Swedish practice are all recognized and legitimate means of therapeutic treatment. It devolves upon the practitioner of medicine of the regular school to investigate these things and to employ that which he may find good.

Rarely there appears an authentic work from a reliable source on hydrotherapy, electrotherapy and the mechanotherapeutic measures. When such appears, we should avail ourselves of their lessons, so that we can have knowledge of new and additional ways to treat patients and that we may apply, in a scientific way, to our patients those kinds of treatment that will be of use as supplements or as substitutes for other more familiar forms of treatment.

With the above points in mind, it gives the reviewer great pleasure to introduce to the notice of the profession a most authentic, comprehensive and illuminating work from the pen of one who can speak authoritatively on the subject of exercise and massage.

The ground covered includes all the various types of massage, active and passive movements, treatment with hot-air apparatus, heliotherapy, hydrotherapy, and the Bier method of hyperemia. After a complete and remarkably clear discussion of these therapeutic means, the various applications of these remedies and a good exposition of the pathology of the various affections treated are